

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087589

FOL TEL SENT ACTION NIAMEY INFO TRIPOLI FROM SECSTATE DTD 10
APR 1976 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 087589

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINR, PFOR, PINS, LY, NG, XA

SUBJECT: REQUEST BY NIGER GOVERNMENT FOR INFORMATION
CONCERNING LIBYAN SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES

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REF: (A) NIAMEY 1322, (B) TRIPOLI 406, (C) TRIPOLI 417,
(D) STATE 78026

1. EMBASSY IS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE ORAL PRESENTATION TO GON
ALONG FOLLOWING LINES IN ANSWER TO ITS REQUEST (REF A):

A. LIBYA'S PRIMARY FOREIGN POLICY OBJECTIVE UNDER COL.
MUAMMAR QADHAFI HAS BEEN TO PROMOTE ARAB UNITY: HE VIEWS
ISRAEL AS AN INTERLOPER IN THE ARAB HEARTLAND WHICH MUST BE
ELIMINATED IN ORDER TO RESTORE THE PALESTINIAN ARABS THEIR
HOMELAND. OTHER HIGH PRIORITIES HAVE BEEN TO EXTEND LIBYAN
INFLUENCE IN AFRICA, TO PROPAGATE THE ISLAMIC FAITH AND
PROMOTE REVOLUTIONARY PROGRAMS AND REGIMES AMONG THIRD WORLD
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COUNTRIES.

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B. SINCE THE PRESENT RULERS CAME TO POWER, LIBYA HAS
PURSUED AN EXTRAORDINARILY INTERVENTIONIST FOREIGN POLICY.

A LARGE PERCENTAGE OF ITS WEALTH HAS BEEN USED TO SUPPORT ITS FRIENDS AND PUNISH ITS ENEMIES, WITH THE GREATEST CONCENTRATION OF ITS EFFORTS AND RESOURCES GOING TO THE ARAB STRUGGLES AGAINST ISRAEL INCLUDING LINING UP DIPLOMATIC SUPPORT FOR THE PALESTINIAN CAUSE AMONG NON-ARAB COUNTRIES.

C. LIBYA HAS ALSO BEEN MOTIVATED BY ISLAMIC MISSIONARY ZEAL AND HAS TENDED TO FAVOR MUSLIM OVER NON-MUSLIM GROUPS IN AFRICA. LIBYA MAY ALSO HAVE TERRITORIAL AMBITIONS IN AFRICA AS EVIDENCED BY ITS ACTIONS IN NORTHWEST CHAD. IN ALL THESE AREAS LIBYA HAS BEEN WILLING TO GIVE VARYING AMOUNTS OF SUPPORT TO SUBVERSIVE AND TERRORIST GROUPS. THE OPEC KIDNAPPING BY "CARLOS" AND HIS GANG IS THE LATEST INCIDENT OF THIS KIND. THROUGH AN AMBITIOUS PROGRAM OF ARMS PURCHASES FROM THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, LIBYA HAS ACQUIRED MATERIEL FAR IN EXCESS OF ITS OWN SECURITY NEEDS OR ITS ABILITY TO MAINTAIN AND OPERATE WITHOUT HEAVY DEPENDENCE ON FOREIGN MANPOWER. LIBYA'S EXTREME STANDS AND DISRUPTIONIST ACTIVITIES HAVE LED TO ITS DIPLOMATIC ISOLATION AMONG MANY COUNTRIES OF THE THIRD WORLD.

D. THE FOLLOWING IS A REPRESENTATIVE LIST OF COUNTRIES IN WHICH LIBYAN REPRESENTATIVES OR THEIR AGENTS HAVE ENGAGED IN OR SUPPORTED SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES:

I. THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST

(A) EGYPT: LIBYAN-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS WERE EXCELLENT UNTIL 1972 WHEN THE PROJECTED UNITY OF THE TWO NATIONS BROKE DOWN. EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT HAS BEEN ATTACKED BY THE LIBYAN REGIME FOR ACCEPTING A CEASEFIRE IN THE 1973 WAR AND FOR SUBSEQUENT PARTICIPATION IN NEGOTIATIONS CONCERNING A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

1974 - LIBYA WAS IMPLICATED IN AN UNSUCCESSFUL COUP
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ATTEMPT AGAINST PRESIDENT SADAT AT CAIRO'S MILITARY CADET COLLEGE.

1975 - LIBYAN SABOTEURS ATTEMPTED TO BLOW UP PRESIDENT SADAT'S REST HOUSE AND ASSASSINATE TWO JOURNALISTS.

1976 - EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES ANNOUNCED THE ARREST OF LIBYAN AGENTS IN CAIRO WHO PLANNED TO ASSASSINATE FORMER PLANNING MINISTER MUHAYSHI AND ENGAGE IN UNSPECIFIED SABOTAGE OPERATIONS IN EGYPT.

(B) LEBANON: THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS PUBLICLY MADE CLEAR THAT IT ABHORES LEBANON'S TRADITIONAL CHRISTIAN-

MUSLIM BALANCE AND HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN BANKROLLING THE CURRENT CRISIS IN FAVOR OF THE EXTREMIST MUSLIM LEFTISTS. IN THE OPINION OF MANY QUALIFIED OBSERVERS OF THE MIDDLE EAST, LIBYA HAS SINCE 1970 BEEN INVOLVED IN FOMENTING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES THERE AND IN SUPPLYING MONEY AND MATERIEL TO RADICAL AND/OR CRIMINAL GROUPS IN LEBANON.

(C) SAUDI ARABIA: LIBYA'S RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA ARE CORRECT BUT COOL. THE LIBYAN LEADERS ARE IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO MONARCHIES. THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT BELIEVES THAT ITS OIL MINISTER YAMANI WAS TARGETED FOR ASSASSINATION IN THE RECENT OPEC KIDNAPPING INCIDENT.

(D) OMAN: LIBYA IS ALSO IDEOLOGICALLY OPPOSED TO THE OMANI MONARCHY AND RESENTED OMAN'S INTRODUCTION OF BRITISH AND IRANIAN FORCES TO QUELL THE REBELS IN OMAN'S DHOFAR PROVINCE. LIBYA HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SUPPLYING ARMS TO THE DHOFARI REBELS IN COLLUSION WITH LEFTIST SOUTH YEMEN.

(E) JORDAN: IN ADDITION TO HIS GENERAL ANTIPATHY TOWARD MONARCHICAL JORDAN, COL. QADHAFI HAS NEVER FORGIVEN KING HUSSEIN FOR SUPPRESSING PALESTINIAN FEDAYEEN ORGANIZATIONS IN 1970-1971. IT IS WIDELY BELIEVED IN ARAB CIRCLES THAT QADHAFI HAS ENCOURAGED WOULD-BE ASSASSINS OF THE KING, MOST RECENTLY AT RABAT IN 1974.

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(F) IRAN: COL. QADHAFI'S HOSTILITY TOWARD IRAN AND ITS SHAH IS BASED NOT ONLY ON IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES BUT ALSO ON HIS OPPOSITION TO ALLEGED IRANIAN INTERFERENCE IN ARAB AFFAIRS. IRANIAN OIL MINISTER AMUZEGAR IS PRESUMED TO HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE TARGETS OF "CARLOS" AND HIS GANG IN THE OPEC KIDNAPPING INCIDENT.

II. NORTH AFRICA

(A) TUNISIA: LIBYAN-TUNISIAN RELATIONS SINCE 1970 HAVE GENERALLY BEEN POOR ALTHOUGH THERE HAS BEEN SOME LIMITED ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

1970-1976 - THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT HAS HARBORED AND ASSISTED SEVERAL TUNISIAN POLITICAL OPPOSITIONISTS.

1976 - SEVERAL LIBYAN COMMANDOS WERE ARRESTED IN TUNISIA AND CHARGED WITH PLANNING TO KIDNAP AND/OR ASSASSINATE A HIGH LEVEL TUNISIAN OFFICIAL, GENERALLY BELIEVED TO HAVE BEEN PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA.

(B) MOROCCO: RELATIONS BETWEEN LIBYA AND MOROCCO HAVE

BEEN UNIFORMLY POOR BECAUSE OF IDEOLOGICAL REASONS AND, CURRENTLY, BECAUSE OF DIFFERENCES OVER THE SPANISH SAHARA ISSUE.

1972 - DURING THE COUP ATTEMPT AGAINST KING HASSAN CHAIRMAN QADHAFI BROADCAST HIS COUNTRY'S SUPPORT TO THE INSURGENTS AND OFFERED TO SEND MEN AND MATERIEL.

(C) ALGERIA: DESPITE UPS AND DOWNS IN THE PAST, RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES ARE CURRENTLY COOPERATIVE BECAUSE OF LIBYAN DIPLOMATIC AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE ALGERIANS IN THEIR CONFRONTATION WITH MOROCCO AND MAURITANIA OVER THE SPANISH SAHARA.

1973-74 - FORMER LIBYAN PLANNING MINISTER MUHAYSHI HAS PUBLICLY CLAIMED THAT CHAIRMAN QADHAFI WAS ACTIVELY CONSPIRING AGAINST ALGERIAN PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE DURING THESE YEARS.

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III. SAHARA AND AFRICA SOUTH OF THE SAHARA

(A) WESTERN SAHARA: LIBYA CLAIMS IT WAS THE FIRST TO GIVE MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO THE F. POLISARIO IN ITS STRUGGLE AGAINST THE SPANISH, A CLAIM THAT THE POLISARIO HAS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

(B) CHAD: RELATIONS WITH LIBYA HAVE VACILLATED BUT GENERALLY HAVE BEEN POOR IN THE LAST SIX YEARS. CHAIRMAN QADHAFI'S REGIME IS BELIEVED TO HAVE OFFERED MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT TO OPPOSITIONIST CHADIAN GROUPS AND TO HAVE TAKEN OVER A LARGE STRIP OF NORTHWESTERN CHAD TERRITORY. THE GOVERNMENT OF CHAD ON SEPT. 26, 1976, ACKNOWLEDGED LIBYAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN AOUZOU AND WOUR, IN RESPONSE TO SEVERAL WESTERN PERIODICAL ARTICLES (LONDON TIMES, SEPTEMBER 7, 1975; LE MONDE, SEPTEMBER 12, 1975; AND JEUNE AFRIQUE, SEPTEMBER 26, 1975) WHICH HAD SPECULATED THAT LIBYA WAS INTERESTED IN POSSIBLE URANIUM DEPOSITS THERE.

(C) SUDAN: SUDANESE-LIBYAN RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ALTERNATELY GOOD AND BAD WITH SOME LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OFFERS OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND OCCASIONAL SUBVERSIVE INTERVENTION.

1971 - LIBYA INTERVENED IN THE SUDANESE COUP OF JULY BY SEIZING TWO OF THE COUP LEADERS.

1975 - SUDAN IMPLICATED LIBYA IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL COUP ATTEMPT OF SEPTEMBER, CHARGING THAT THE REBELS GAINED REFUGE AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE FRONTIER.

(D) MALI: RELATIONS WITH MALI IMPROVED AFTER MALI BROKE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN EARLY 1973. FORMER PLANNING MINISTER MUHAYSHI HAS PUBLICLY ALLEGED THAT LIBYA ATTEMPTED TO ACQUIRE AN AIR BASE IN MALI FOR USE AGAINST MOROCCO AND ALGERIA.

(E) ETHIOPIA-SOMALIA: IT IS GENERALLY BELIEVED THAT LIBYA HAS TAKEN AN ACTIVE PART IN SUPPLYING THE ERITREAN INSURGENTS FIGHTING AGAINST THE CENTRAL ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT.
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MENT.

IV. OTHER COUNTRIES

LIBYA FURNISHED ARMS AND OTHER SUPPORT TO MUSLIM GUERRILLAS IN THE PHILIPPINES, AND RADICAL ELEMENTS IN THE IRISH REPUBLICAN ARMY.

2. IN DISCUSSION YOU MAY WANT TO NOTE THAT AS GON CAN SEE, MANY AFRICAN AND ARAB STATES HAVE BEEN VICTIMS OF LARG MACHINATIONS. MANY OF QADHAFI'S EFFORTS TO INTERFERE HAVE FAILED AND HAVE ALIENATED LIBYA FROM MUCH OF THE THIRD WORLD. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO SUGGEST THAT LIBYAN PROMISES OF ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE ARE NO LONGER THE CREDIBLE INSTRUMENT THEY WERE BEFORE BECAUSE OF LARG'S POOR REPUTATION FOR FOLLOW-THROUGH.

3. FYI: DEPARTMENT DECIDED THAT SUBJECT OF LIBYAN-SUPPORTED SUBVERSION TOO SENSITIVE TO SEVERAL GOVERNMENTS, NOT LEAST LARG, TO RISK PRESENTING GON WITH "PIECE OF PAPER" WHICH COULD FIND ITS WAY TO OTHER CAPITALS.
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